

# Hurricane Preparedness

Town of Edisto Beach and Colleton County  
Fire-Rescue (2026)

# Introductions

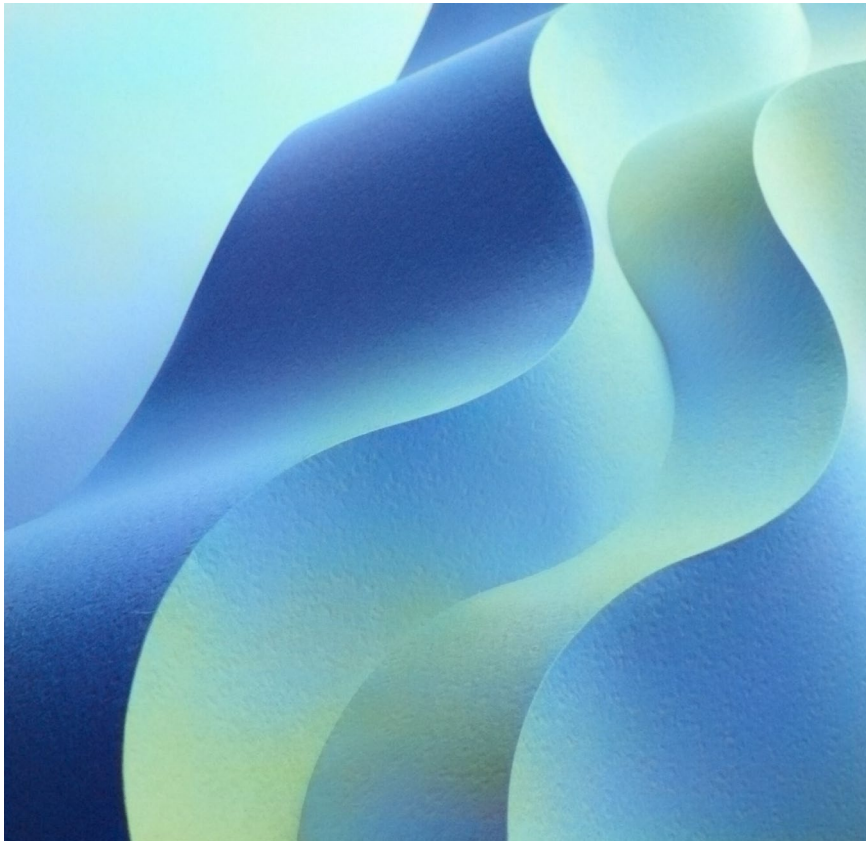
## Town of Edisto Beach

- Crawford Moore, Mayor
- Mark Aakhus, Town Administrator
- Dee Stalvey, Assistant Town Administrator
- Daniel Seyle, Police Chief
- Denney Conley, Fire Chief
- Patrick Brown, Building Official
- Patrick Zemp, Utilities Director
- Mike Casey, Colleton County EOC Representative
- Wendy Griffin, Volunteer Fire Department President

## Colleton County Fire-Rescue

- Dr. David Greene, Fire Chief / Emergency Manager; Captain KC Campbell
  
- Tina Vickers, SCEMD

# South Carolina (recent) Hurricane History



2024	Hurricane Helene
2024	Tropical Storm Debby
2023	Hurricane Idalia
2022	Hurricane Ian
2022	Hurricane Nicole
2019	Hurricane Dorian
2018	Hurricane Florence
2018	Hurricane Michael
2017	Hurricane Irma
2016	Hurricane Matthew
2015	Hurricane Joaquin



# 2024 – Tropical Storm Debby

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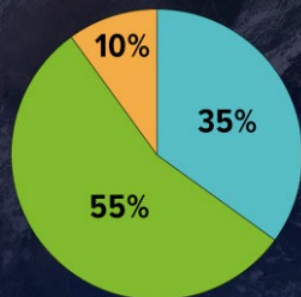






## 2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook

### Season Probability



Above Normal    Near Normal    Below Normal

Named Storms  
8 - 14

Hurricanes  
3 - 6

Major Hurricanes  
1 - 3

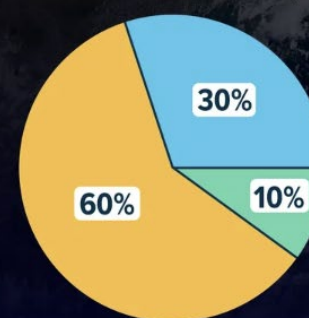
Be prepared: visit [hurricanes.gov](https://hurricanes.gov) and follow NOAA's @NWS and @NHC\_Atlantic on X.

May 2026



## 2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook

### Season Probability



Above Normal    Near Normal    Below Normal

Named Storms  
13 - 19

Hurricanes  
6 - 10

Major Hurricanes  
3 - 5

Be prepared: Visit [hurricanes.gov](https://hurricanes.gov) and follow NOAA's @NWS and @NHC\_Atlantic on X.

May 2025



# Hurricane Matthew - 2016



# National Weather Service

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## Storm Surge Facts

- There will be more flooding if the highest surge occurs around high astronomical tide (compared to low tide)
- The coastal areas of SC/GA are very surge-prone given the low elevation and gently sloping continental shelf offshore
- In 1989, Hurricane Hugo produced the highest water levels ever recorded on the U.S. East Coast (~20 foot storm tide above Mean Sea Level at Bulls Bay, SC and ~10 foot storm tide above MSL in downtown Charleston, SC)

« Images courtesy of NWS



Romain Retreat, SC (near Bulls Bay) after Hugo (1989)



Edisto Beach, SC after Matthew (2016)

# Know the difference between a Watch and a Warning

Hurricane Watch - Issued 48  
hours in advance of threat

What do I do? – prepare your  
belongings and plan to  
evacuate if a Hurricane or  
Tropical Storm Warning is  
issued.

Danger is possible.

Hurricane Warning - Issued 36  
hours in advance of threat

What do I do? – finish storm  
preparations and immediately  
evacuate if directed by local  
officials. Plan housing and pet  
arrangements in advance.

Danger is expected.

# Threats to Edisto Beach

Hazards

Storm Surge

Wind

Rainfall-Induced Flooding

Tornadoes

Edisto Beach Fire Department  
Cat 2 MOM



Storm Surge of 4 feet

Edisto Beach Fire Department  
Cat 3 MOM



Storm Surge of 7 feet

Edisto Beach Fire Department  
Cat 4 MOM



Storm Surge of 11 feet

Edisto Beach Fire Department  
Cat 5 MOM



Storm Surge of 15 feet

# Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale

Hurricane Intensity Scale (Wind Damage)

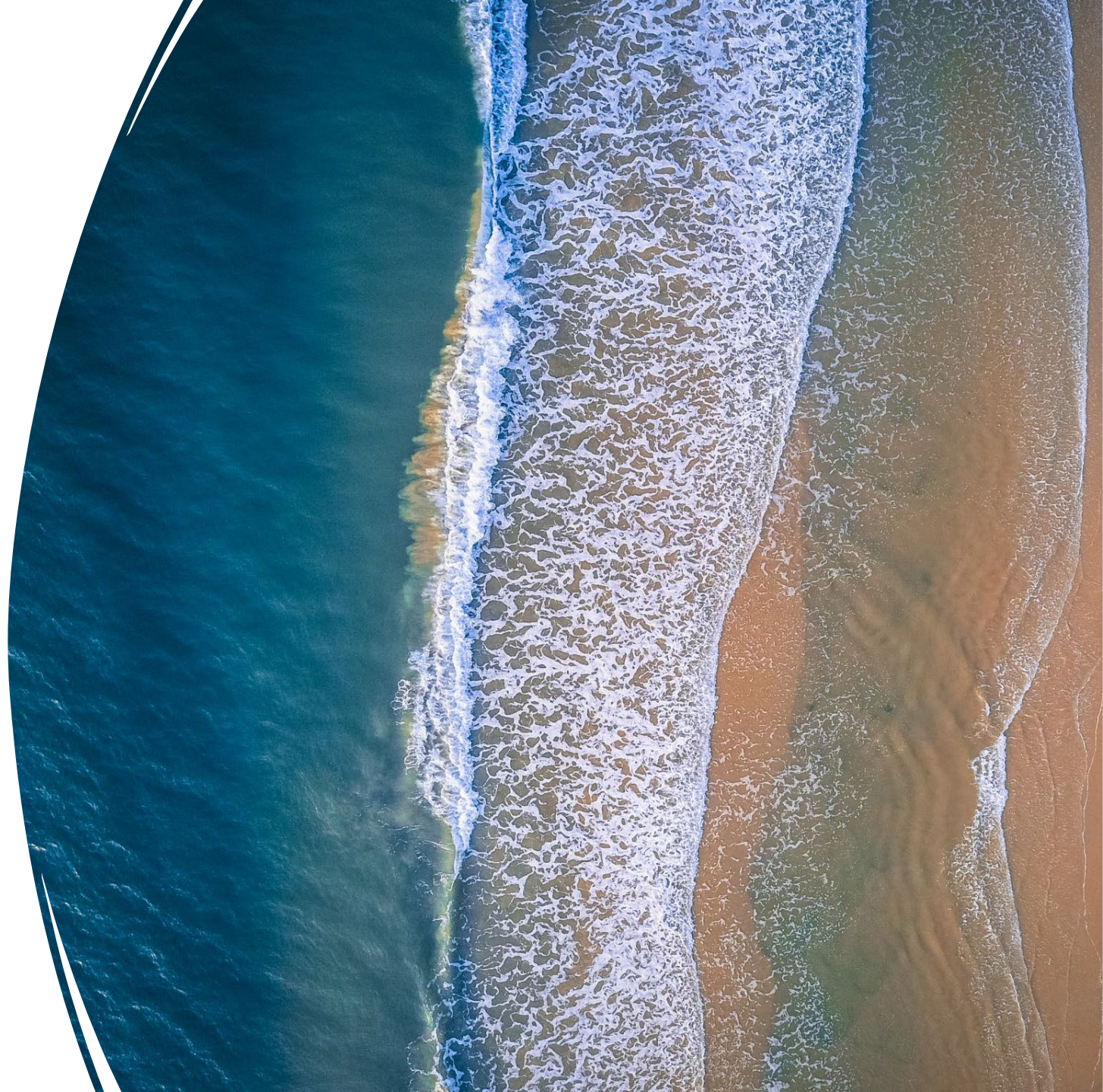


Wind speed	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Category 5
	75 - 95 mph	96 - 110 mph	111 - 130 mph	131 - 154 mph	155 + mph
	33-42 ms <sup>-1</sup>	43-49 ms <sup>-1</sup>	50-58 ms <sup>-1</sup>	59-69 ms <sup>-1</sup>	70+ ms <sup>-1</sup>

# Town of Edisto Beach Preparations

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- Edisto Beach Emergency Operations Plan
- Staff meetings and Table-Top exercise with Colleton County
- Incident Command System (ICS)



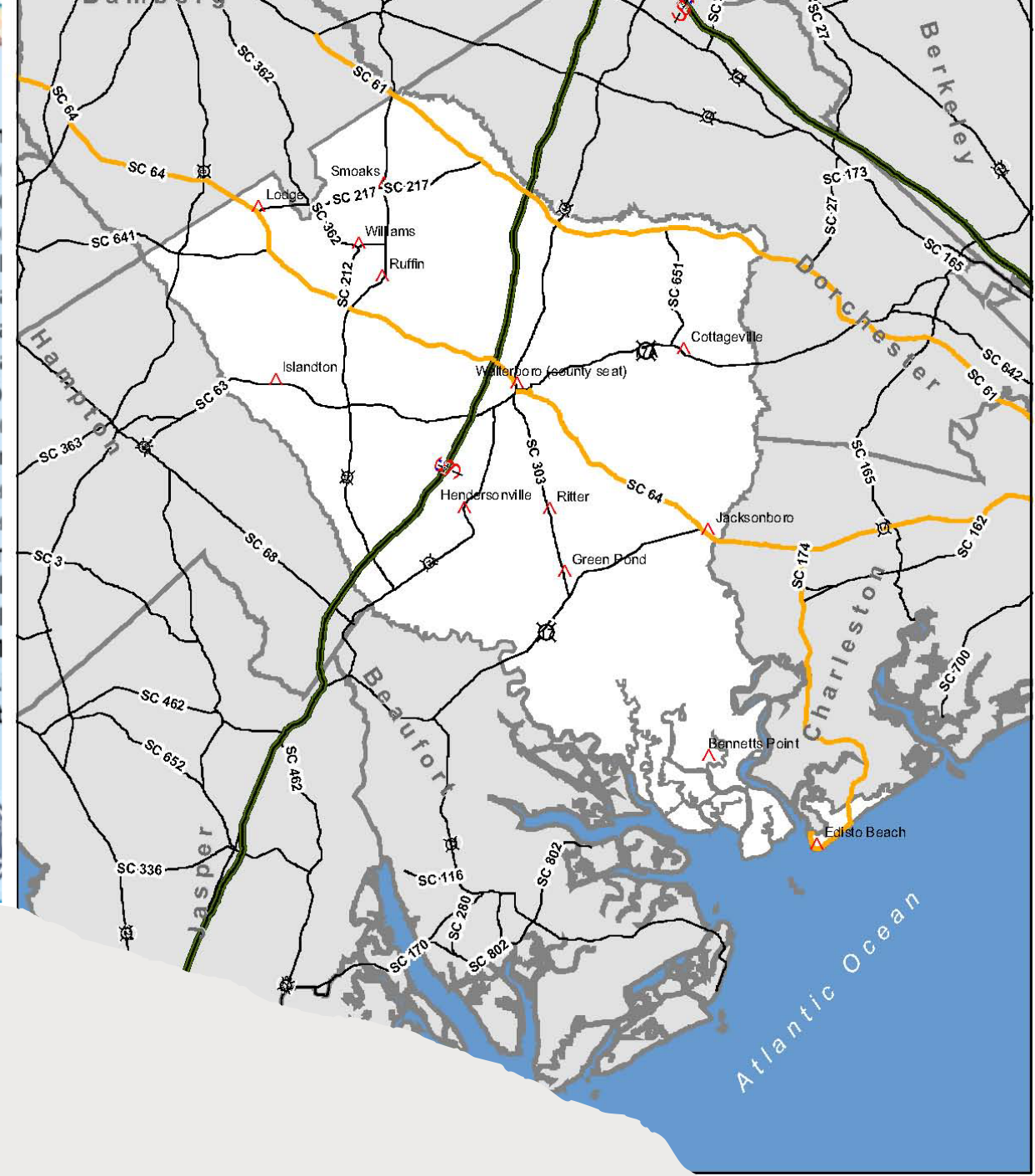
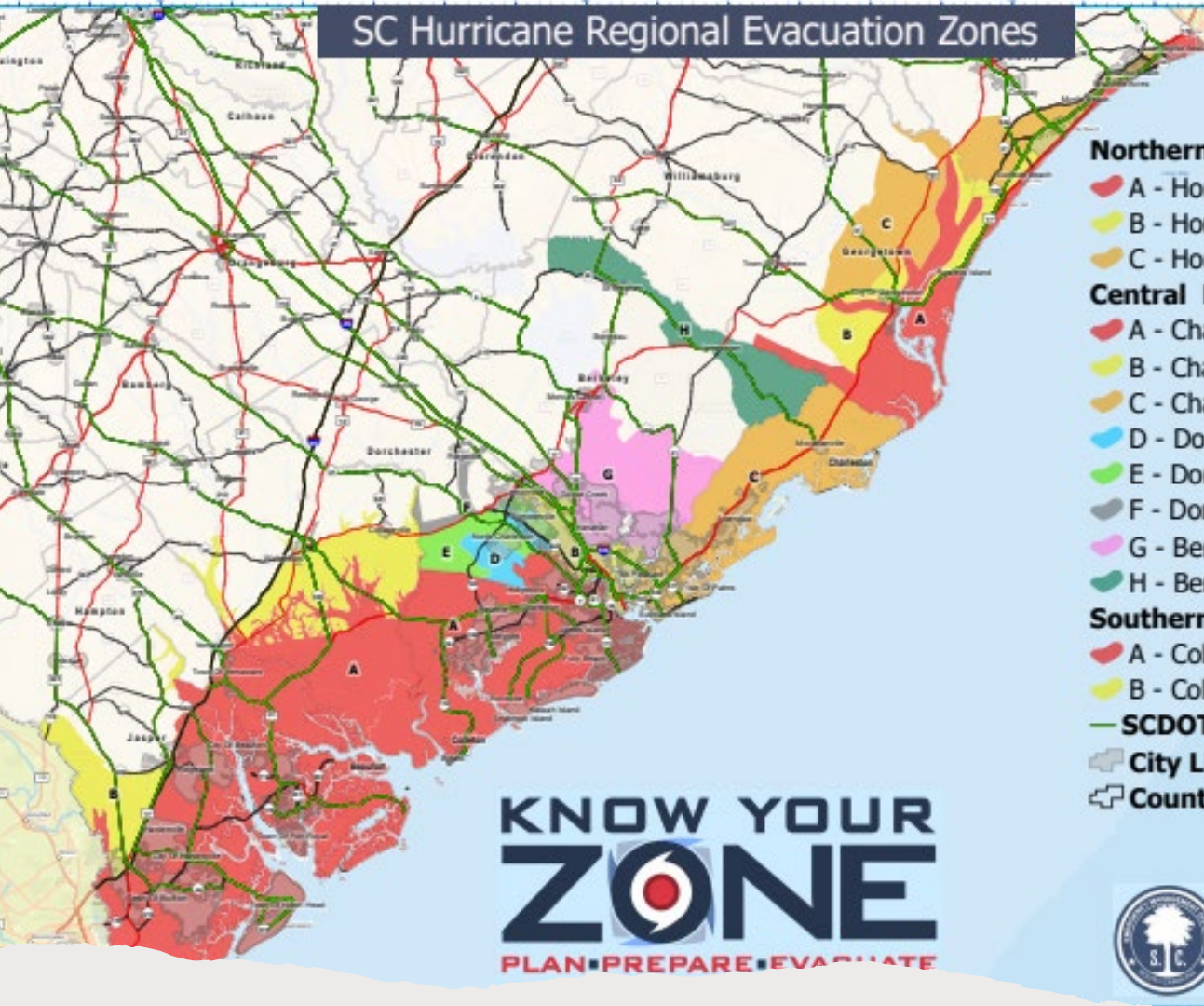
# Evacuations

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- Notice will be provided through all available means of communications
  - CodeRED
  - Website
  - Email notifications
  - News media
  - No emergency shelters on the beach or island
  - Emergency personnel will evacuate



# SC Hurricane Regional Evacuation Zones



Evacuation Route

Evacuation Routes

# Re-Entry to Edisto Beach

Re-Entry is phased and dependent on conditions.

Occurs only after safety and damage assessments.

Limited entry.

Property owner decals. Applications can be found in your chairs and on the Town [Website](#).

# How to Prepare Your Home

- Insurance Coverage
- Remove outdoor objects
- Secure garbage cans
- Protect window openings with storm shutters
- Unplug appliances
- Lock doors and secure valuables

# Resources

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## Sand and Sandbags

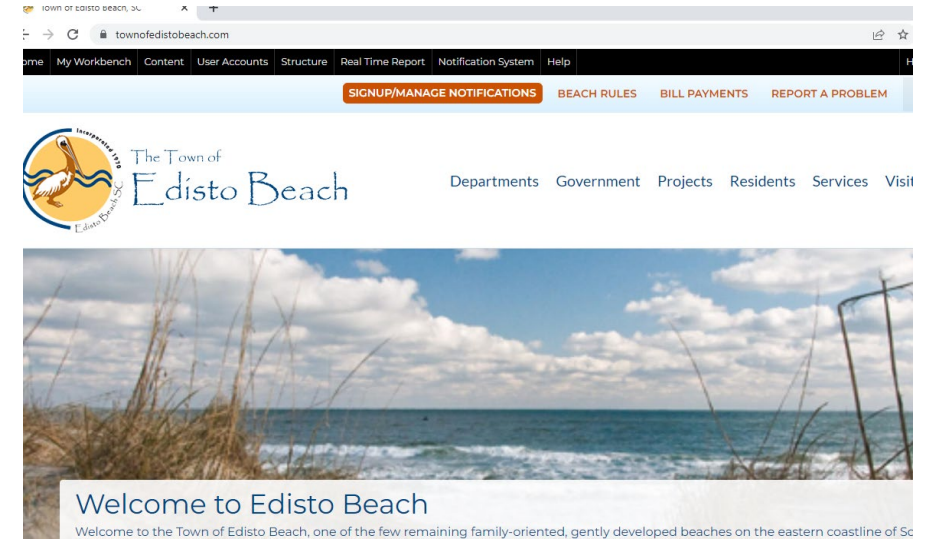
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## CodeRED – Community Notification System

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South Carolina Emergency Manager App (iPhone and Android compatible)

<https://www.scemd.org/stay-informed/mobile-applications/>



# Disaster Supply Kit

(Visit [scemd.org](https://scemd.org) for  
more information)

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3-day minimum preparation

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Weather Alert Radio

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Non-perishable food (don't forget a can opener)

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Drinking water, two gallon per person per day

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Flashlights, extra batteries

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Cash or travelers' checks

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First aid kit

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Mess kit

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Waterproof matches

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Baby supplies

---

All prescription medication

---

Hygiene products

---

Sunscreen and bug spray

---

Important family documents

# Planning for Your Pet

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Crate/carrier

---

Leash/harness/bowls

---

3 days of water and food

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Medications, health/vaccinations records, microchip numbers, photo of your pet

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Lost





# Dr. David Greene

Fire Chief / Emergency Manager  
Colleton County Fire Rescue

## 2026 Hurricane Predictions

Activity: “Below Average Season”

Landfalls and Impacts: Unknown

1989 was a below average season with only eleven named storms during the entire Atlantic Hurricane season and only one hit the east coast. It was?

# Hurricane Hugo - September 21, 1989 (37 years ago)



Remember...it only takes one.

# Cone of Uncertainty - NOT the Cone of Certainty

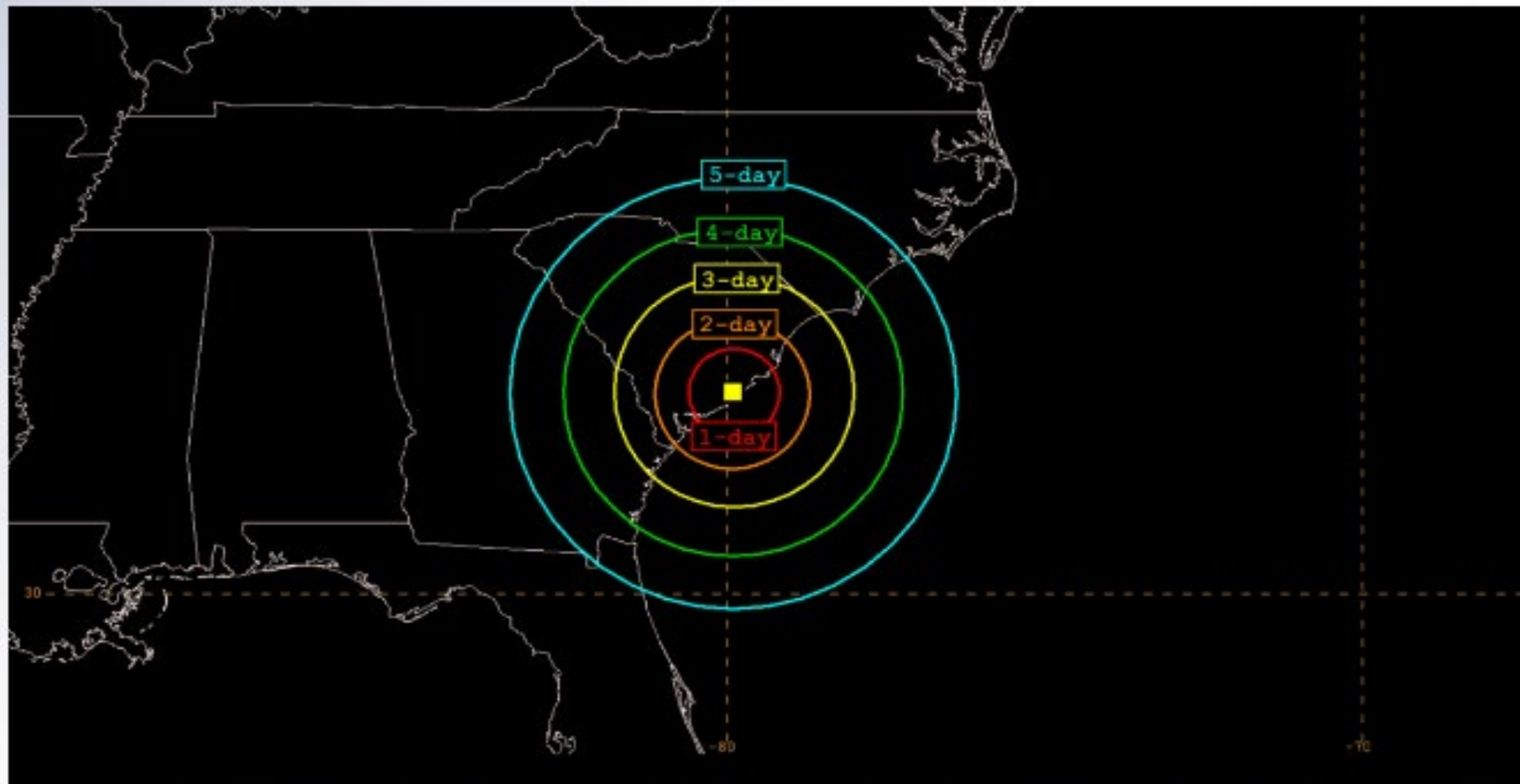
The cone of uncertainty is NOT the limit of the storm's impacts. It is generated using the 67th percentile of track errors over the last 5 years by NHC.

The cone is only accurate  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the time ( $\frac{1}{3}$  of the time, the center of the storm will travel outside of the cone)

Predictions have improved over the last 20 years, so the cone has gotten smaller. Storms have not.



# 1-day Average Track Error



# NHC Track Errors / Cone of Uncertainty



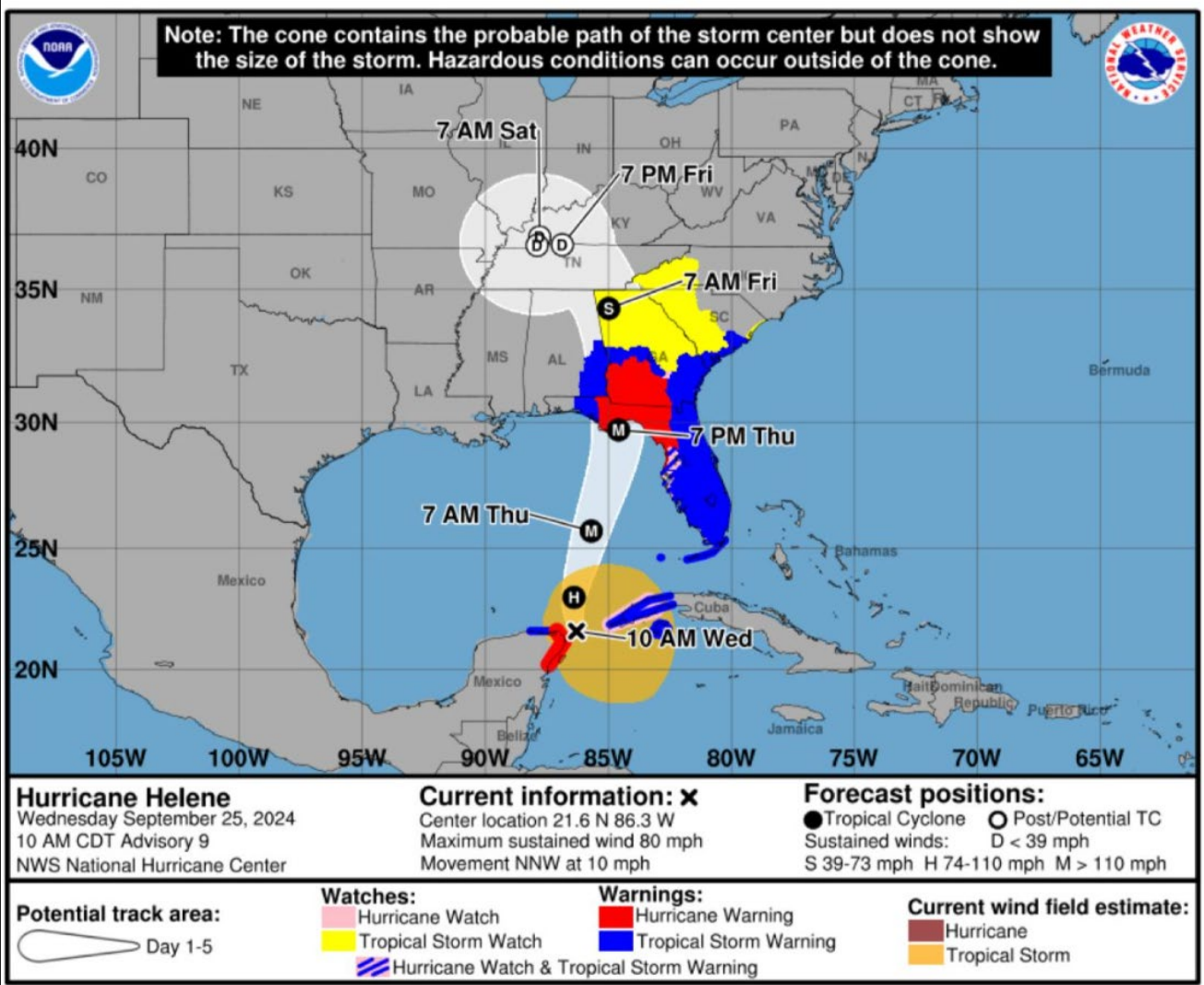
## NHC Forecast Cone

- Represents probable track of tropical cyclone center
- Formed by connecting circles centered on each forecast point (at 12, 24, 36 h, etc.)
- Size of the circles determined so that, for example, the actual storm position at 48 h will be within the 48-h circle 67% of the time

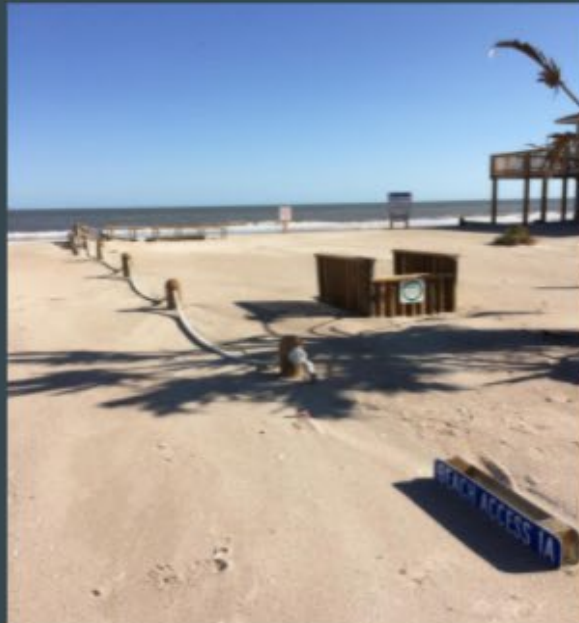


Remember - the cone contains the probable path of the storm center but does not show the size of the storm. Hazardous conditions can occur outside of the cone.

# NHC Cone Product for 2026



# Edisto Beach

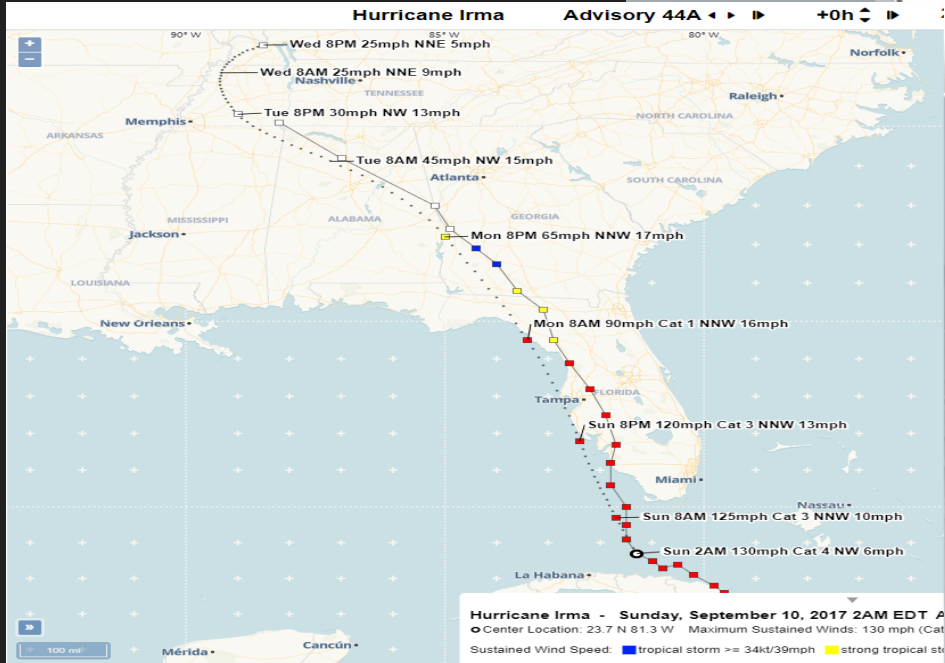


# Tybee Island, GA



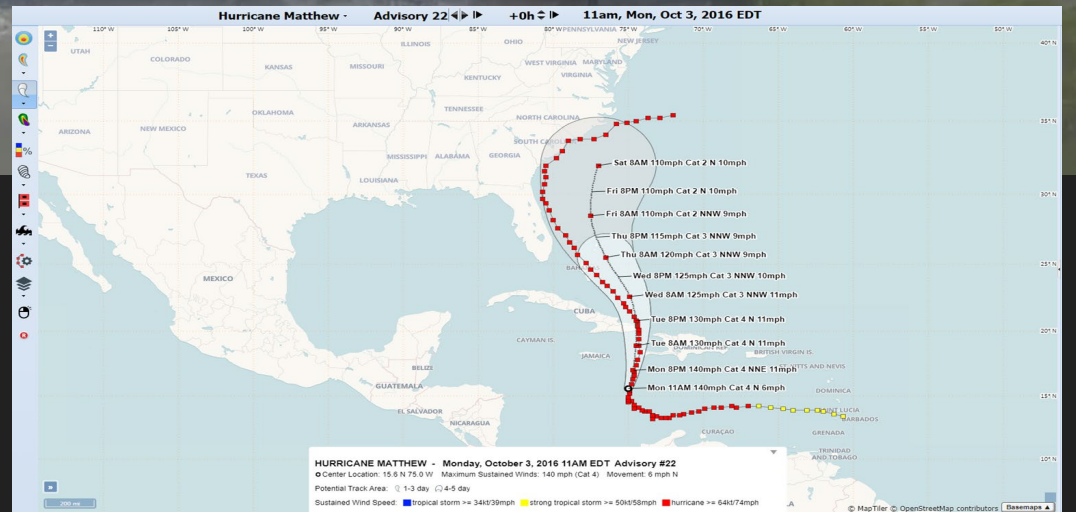
Hurricane Irma  
2017

# HISTORIC CRESTS DOWNTOWN

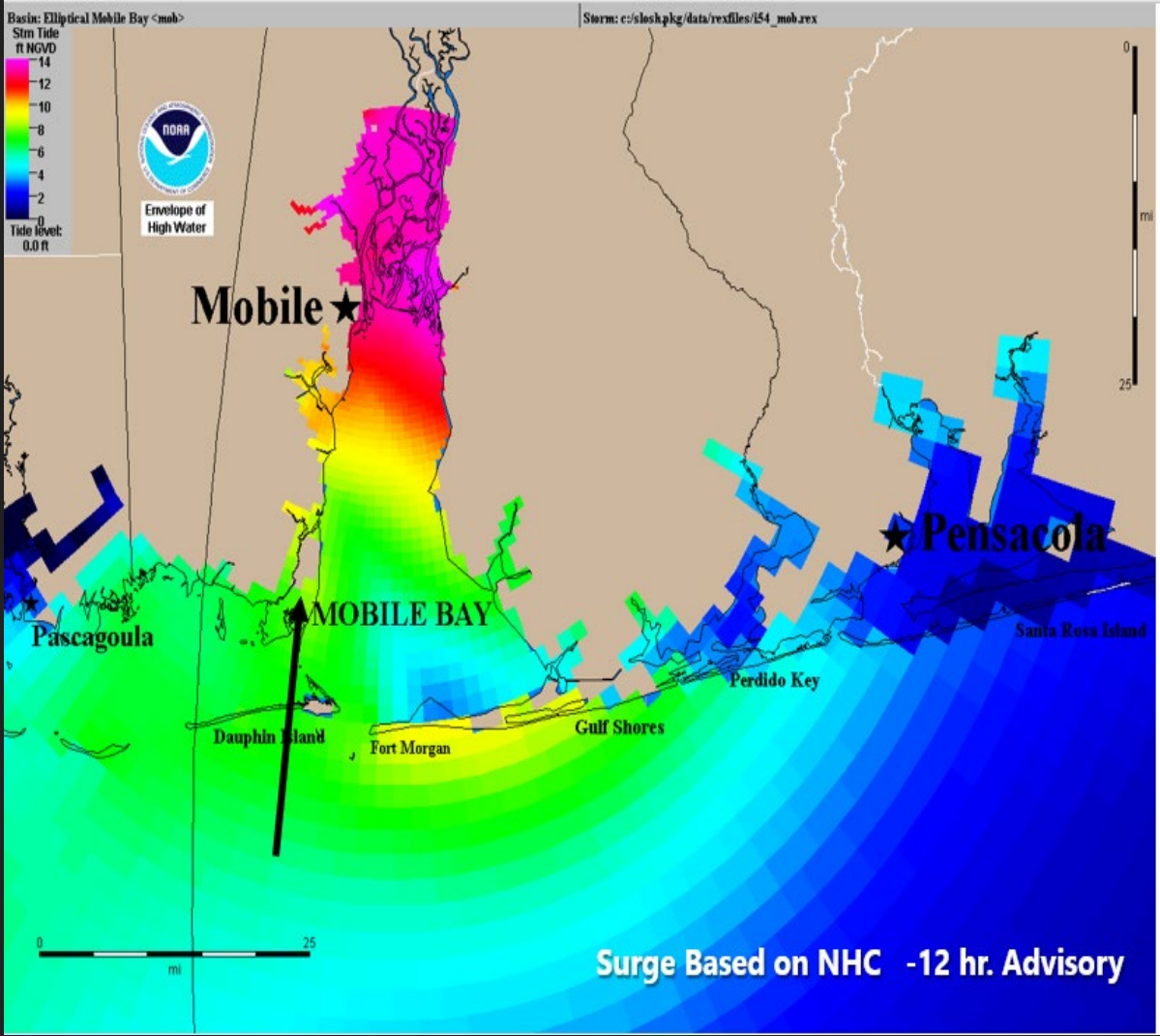
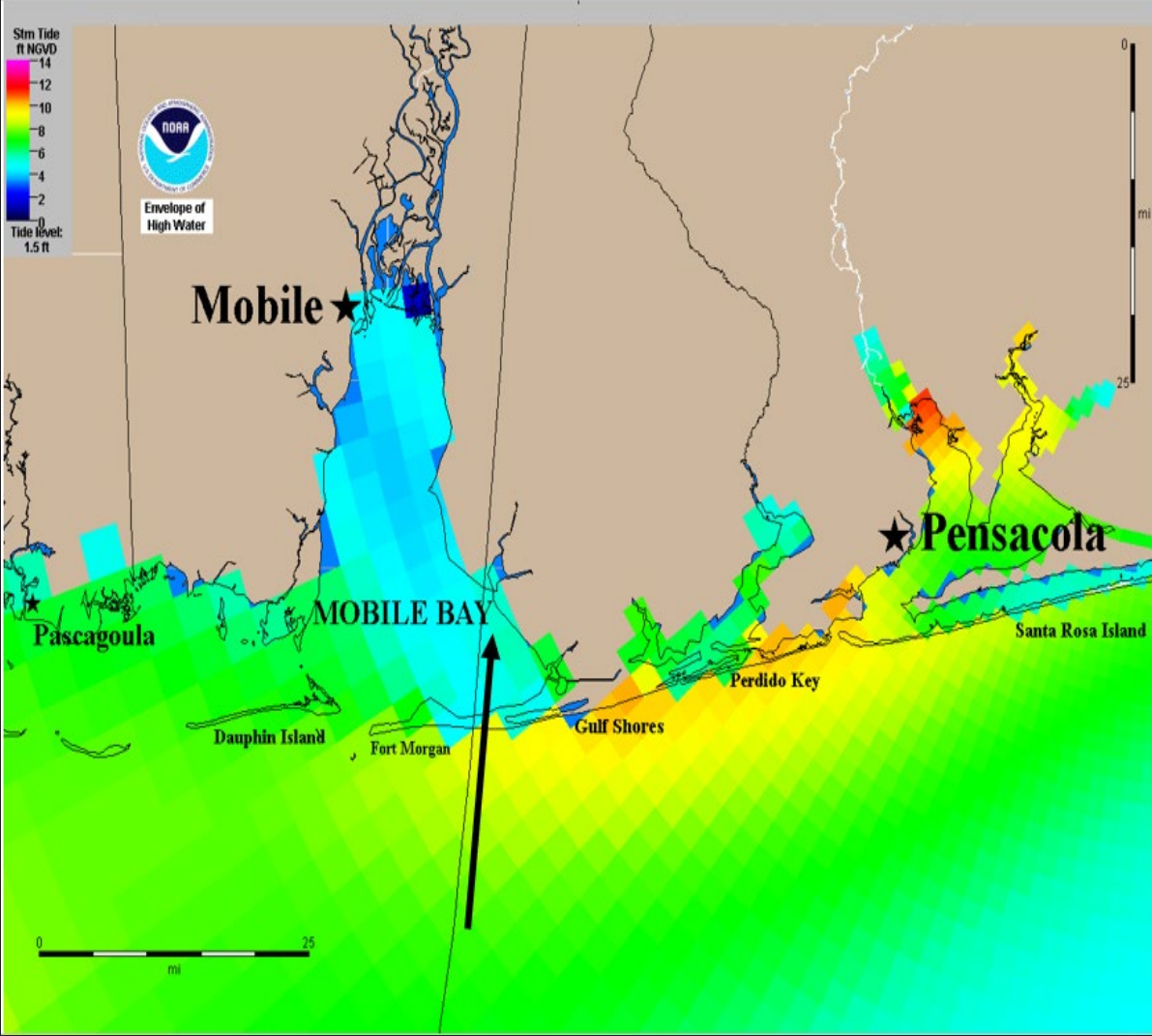


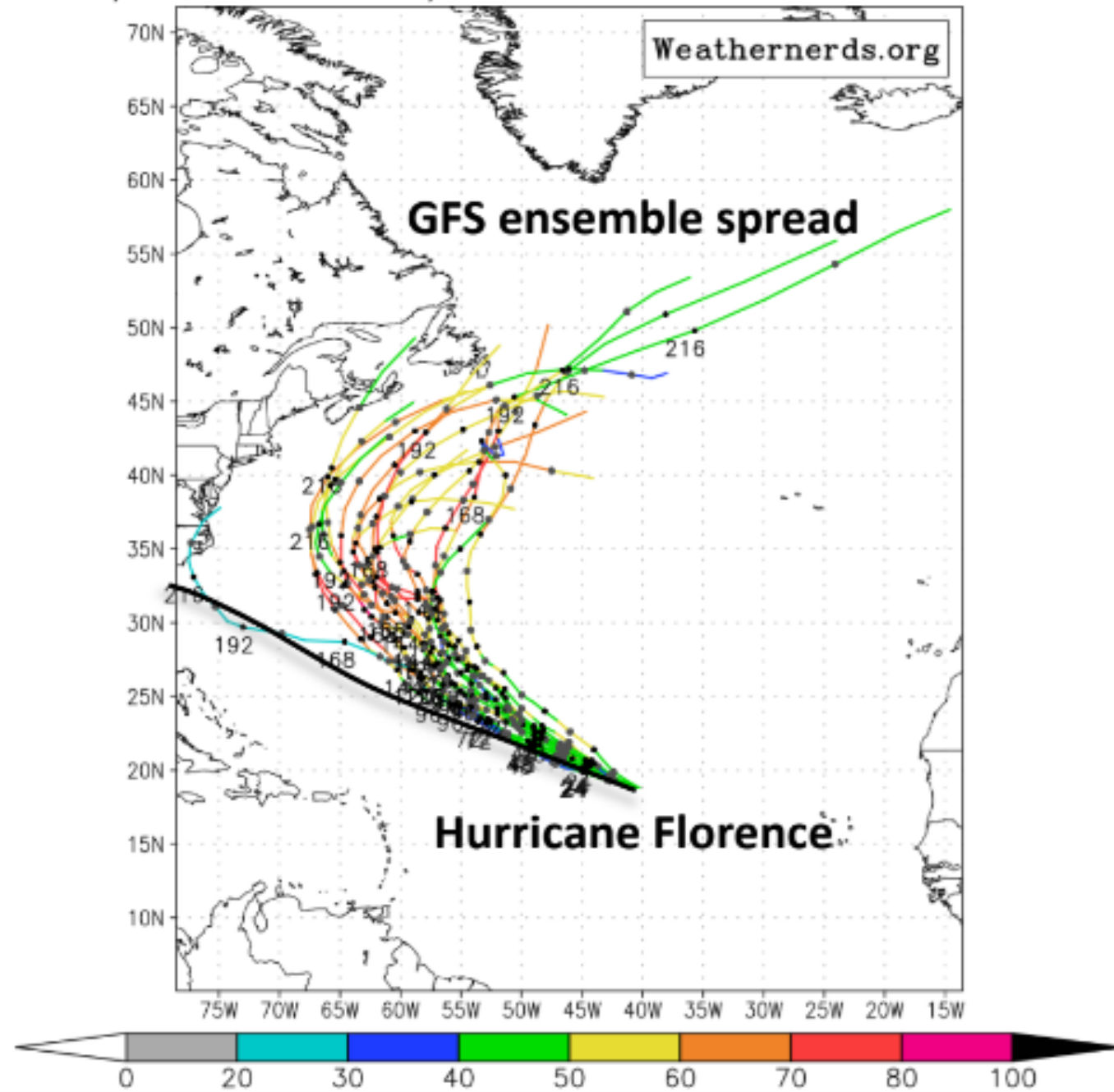
① <b>Hugo</b> September 22, 1989	<b>12.52 FT</b>
② <b>1940 SC Hurricane</b> August 11, 1940	<b>10.23 FT</b>
③ <b>Irma</b> September 11, 2017	<b>9.92 FT</b>
④ <b>Nor'easter</b> December 17, 2023	<b>9.86 FT</b>
⑤ <b>Matthew</b> October 8, 2016	<b>9.29 FT</b>

Closest approaches to Colleton County  
 Hurricane Matthew = 25 miles  
 Hurricane Irma = 174 miles



# Location, location, location (Hurricane Ivan - 2004)







# And of course, the Twitter posts



Sep 7

Updating yesterday's tidbit... as of Friday morning's advisory, 79 named storms have passed within 200 nautical miles of #Florence's position since 1851, and not one has ever come close to the U.S. coast.



The Official National Hurricane Center  
Forecast is the only model that is touched by  
a human.

# Rapid Intensification

The four Category 5 hurricanes to make landfall in the United States were all tropical storms just three days before landfall, providing a reminder of why you should be prepared before the season begins in case there are rapidly-intensifying storms

<u>Storm (Year)</u>	<u>Wind Speed 3 days prior to landfall (Date)</u>	<u>Wind Speed at Landfall (Date)</u>
Michael (2018)	50 mph (10/7/2018)	160 mph (10/10/2018)
Andrew (1992)	55 mph (8/21/1992)	165 mph (8/24/1992)
Camille (1969)	60 mph (8/14/1969)	175 mph (8/17/1969)
Labor Day (1935)	60 mph (8/31/1935)	185 mph (9/2/1935)

# Remember Category DOES NOT include surge

## No More Surge in the Saffir-Simpson Scale!



FEMA

(it fits like a square peg in a round hole)

Category	Wind speed			Storm surge	
	mph	km/h	kn	ft	m
Five	≥ 156	≥ 250	≥ 136	> 18	> 5.5
Four	131–155	210–249	114–135	13–18	4.0–5.5
Three	111–130	178–209	96–113	9–12	2.8–3.7
Two	96–110	154–177	83–95	6–8	1.8–2.4
One	74–95	119–153	64–82	4–5	1.2–1.5
Additional classifications					
Tropical storm	39–73	63–117	35–63	0–3	0–0.9
Tropical depression	0–38	0–62	0–34	0	0

KATRINA (3)  
IKE (2)

SANDY (1)  
ISAAC (1)

CHARLEY (4)

# New Bern, NC – Hurricane Florence



# New Bern, NC – Hurricane Florence



# Review your Insurance Policy

FEMA Assistance will be limited and is not designed to make you whole.

Know Your Zone - Edisto is in Zone A

Follow Trusted Sources of Information  
(NHC, NWS, SCEMD, Local Officials)

Have a plan, follow evacuation orders  
(we will) & routes, and plan for pets

[www.colletonfire.com/info](http://www.colletonfire.com/info)

Updated information and graphics

Link to video update (live stream channel)

Link to Sign up for RAVE / Smart 911 Alerts - [colletonfire.com/smart911](http://colletonfire.com/smart911)

Link to National Hurricane Center - [nhc.noaa.gov](http://nhc.noaa.gov)

The screenshot shows the 'Colleton County Fire-Rescue' website. At the top left is the 'ColletonFire-Info' logo. The main header features the Colleton County Fire-Rescue seal, which includes the text 'COLLETON COUNTY' and 'FIRE RESCUE' around a central emblem. Below the seal, there is a 'Questions?' section with the contact information: 'Call the Emergency Operations Center at 843-549-5632'. A blue button labeled 'Register for Colleton Alerts' is positioned below this. To the right of the seal, the page title 'Colleton County Fire-Rescue' is displayed in large blue font, followed by the sub-header 'Emergency Information'. Below the sub-header are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, and LinkedIn. A series of blue buttons are arranged in two columns: 'Click here to report damages to your home or business', 'Click Here to View Video Updates', 'National Hurricane Center', and 'Click here for Hurricane Preparedness Information' on the left; and 'What is OpCon?', 'Recovery Information', and 'RAVE Smart 911 : Alert' on the right. On the far right, there are two status boxes: 'EOC : Status' with a green bar containing the word 'CLOSED', and 'EOC : OpCon' with a green bar containing the number '3'. At the bottom of the page, the text 'Emergency Information is Listed Below' is centered.

# Important Contact Information

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Edisto Beach Town Hall: 843-869-2505,  
[townofedistobeach.com](http://townofedistobeach.com)

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Colleton County Fire-Rescue: 843-539-  
1960, [colletonfire.com/em](http://colletonfire.com/em)

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Colleton County Emergency Operations  
Center: 843-549-5632

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S.C. Emergency Management Division  
(SCEMD): [scemd.org](http://scemd.org)

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National Hurricane Center:  
[hurricanes.gov](http://hurricanes.gov)



Questions?